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Application No. 10/587,640

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously presented): A method for producing an acrylic copolymer, which comprises emulsion polymerizing a monomer mixture of (a) 30-70% by weight of perfluoroalkylalkyl (meth)acrylate, represented by the following general formula:



(where R is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, R' is a linear or branched alkylene group having 1-8 carbon atoms, and R_f is a perfluoroalkyl group having 4-16 carbon atoms), (b) 25-60% by weight of stearyl (meth)acrylate, (c) 0.1-5% by weight of (meth)acrylamide, and (d) 0.1-5% by weight of N-methylol (meth)acrylamide in the presence of a non-ionic and/or cationic surfactant, wherein a polypropylene glycol-based compound is used as an emulsification aid.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): A method of producing an acrylic copolymer according to Claim 1, wherein after the monomer mixture is emulsified and dispersed by an emulsification means using a high pressure homogenizer, a colloid mill or an ultrasonic dispersing apparatus, the emulsion polymerization is carried out by adding a polymerization initiator thereto.

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Claim 3 (Previously presented): An emulsion polymerized acrylic copolymer produced by a method according to Claim 1.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): A water and oil repellent, which comprises an emulsion polymerized acrylic copolymer according to Claim 3.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): An emulsion polymerized acrylic copolymer produced by a method according to Claim 2.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): A water and oil repellent, which comprises an emulsion polymerized acrylic copolymer according to Claim 5.